

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the separation of components from a solution comprising:
  - (i) HCl and palladium (Pd) in admixture with other platinum group ~~and/or~~ metals and base metals,
  - (ii) HCl and palladium (Pd) in admixture with base metals, or
  - (iii) HCl and palladium (Pd) in admixture with other platinum group metals,

the process comprising the steps of passing said solution over a hydrophilic medium comprising thioether ligands bound to a solid cross-linked organic polymer matrix and separating the Pd from the other platinum group and/or base metals by retaining the Pd on the medium and eluting the other platinum group and/or base metals.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the retained Pd is recovered by ~~elution~~ eluting it with ammonia ~~or a nitrogen containing eluant~~.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the thioether ligands comprise monothioether ligands.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, or 4~~, wherein the polymer comprises moieties selected from the group consisting of methacrylate moieties, styrene moieties, poly(ethylene glycol) moieties ~~or~~ and any combination or mixture thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the ligands are bound to the polymer matrix through ~~a~~ functional groups selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, ~~or~~ unbranched alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, ether ~~or~~ and ester ~~group or groups and any combination thereof, optionally substituted, especially by hydroxyl.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the sulphur atom of the thioether group is substituted by an alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~optionally substituted, especially by hydroxyl.~~
8. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the chromatographic medium is in the form of a gel or a porous solid.
9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the chromatographic medium forms part of a composite chromatographic medium, the composite comprising a porous support, the pores of which support contain the medium.
10. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the solution comprises Pd in admixture with two or more other metals.
11. (New) A process according to claim 10, wherein the two or more other metals comprise platinum group metals.
12. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the retained Pd is recovered by eluting it with a nitrogen-containing eluant.
13. (New) A process according to claim 6, wherein the or each functional group is substituted by hydroxyl groups.
14. (New) A process according to claim 7, wherein the alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms is substituted by hydroxyl groups.